

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 518
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Metropolitan Baptist Church
on the celebration of 100 years of growth,
prosperity and service.

WHEREAS, once in a great while there comes along a special church with a dedicated congregation who, through their unlimited capacity for love, richness of spirit and faith in God, dedicate their efforts to touching and shaping lives, thereby helping to build a better and brighter world; and

WHEREAS, the future of our state depends upon the positive contributions that religion makes to our society; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Baptist Church has worked to improve the quality of life for African-Americans in Tennessee for the past 100 years; and

WHEREAS, 1996 marks the centennial year for the Metropolitan Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, the nucleus of Metropolitan Baptist Church as a separate congregation was formed from the parent church, First Baptist - Beale Street, in May, 1896. On the first Sunday in July of that year, two hundred members who had withdrawn from the former church organized a new fold of Christian believers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fred C. Lofton, a well-prepared, extensively trained theologian, accepted the call to Metropolitan and is the present pastor. With divine guidance and a prayerful, willing spirit, he, along with his faithful wife, Mrs. Dorothy M. Lofton, have sought to continue the ideals set forth for Metropolitan by their predecessors; and

WHEREAS, with unwavering support and loyalty from the membership, Dr. Lofton has secured the church's affiliation with the American Baptist Convention while continuing as an integral part of the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC); and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dorothy McKinney Lofton has provided loving support to her husband in the various areas of his responsibilities as pastor and as leader in numerous positions; and

WHEREAS, with appreciation for past events and prayers for guidance in the future, Metropolitan looks ahead to many years of continued service to the community on local, state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Baptist Church is recognized, respected, and actively participates in Shelby County and across the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this year, Metropolitan Baptist Church is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and the future looks bright for the next century; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that this General Assembly recognize Metropolitan Baptist Church as their exemplary ministry and historical legacy continues to inspire the Memphis community and the state of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize and commemorate the Metropolitan Baptist Church on the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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